SISTERS' ENDEAVOR DEPARTMENT.

The Sisters' Christian Endeavor of the Brethren Church is a regularly incorporated body with qualified trustees. Churches and property may be deeded to them, bequests and donations made, with full assurance that all will be appropriated in developing New Testament Christianity. Remember the Society in your wills.

GENERAL OFFICERS.

Mary M. Sterling, Pres., Masontown, Pa., Mary E. Garber, Rec. Sec'y., Ashland, O., Bessie W. Perry, Cor. Secretary, North Manchester, Ind., Sarah Keim, Treasurer, Louisville, Ohio.

INSTRUCTIONS.

Address Mary M. Sterling for information about organization, charters and methods.

Address Mary E. Garber, in making reports of election of officers, and any information intended to go on the general record of the society.

Address Bessie W. Perry in making reports for publication, and in general correspondence.

Address Sarah Keim in remitting the dues belonging to the general society. Send money by post office money order, registered letter or drafts.

Woman's Work—How and Where She Finds It.

Essay read by Sister M. M. Sterling, at the Penna. S. S. Convention.

The day for woman's Christian progress has already had its dawn. God's eternal light of love is penetrating all the darkness of conventionality. Formost in reform stand our sisters of the world. Bravely they have vanquished each objection to their place. Victor Hugo says, "The nineteenth century, is woman's century."

I espouse not the cause of our sisterhood, thinking her rights are usurped. In this sinful world of ours is work to which she is not giving attention. Nor do I hope to be an infidel, my faults seem greater than my virtues; yet I truly seek to aid our churches in their woman's worthy endeavor.

E'en not farther back than we have known, the dark luxuriant vine of chaos with its moldy leaves of false traditions, and clammy tendrils of cold selfishness had been creeping over and around the slender tree of woman's mission, shutting out the broad sunlight of God's invigorating truth, until of rapid growth its being has been smothered. Each declining era tears away some clinging plant of prejudice or custom. Each succeeding decade infuses health and firmness.

Although wrapped about by her own and others' ignorance, shriveling her soul in fashion's dismal hiding, unknown to active thought, love and earnest purpose, until woman could no longer breathe the pure, inspiring air of liberty, still she felt within heaven's imparted faculties, that, if given freedom, would develop into higher, nobler use; and leave her not a mind too clouded for rich science; a heart too narrow grown for pure and lasting friendship; actions all too crooked for true and warm affections; a soul too densely hidden for honesty and trust; a conscience too disturbed for quiet happiness; a life too closely lived unto herself and hers, that she could heal no wounds beyond mere selfishness.

Woman's work! This subject has for many years been in general dispute. The problem may be understood by a demonstration. Perhaps the only way of proving what is woman's work, is to let her show her work, to the full extent of her desires and accomplishments; while now and then you proffer help, as the question difficult and dreary seems to her aching head and bleeding heart, when with spirit weary she looks up appealingly into the face of him who knows the suffering that oft fills the soul with anguish. If her solution truly meets with just approval by the world of intellect and conscience, unabused, she need not fear her offering unaccepted at a higher throne of mercy and intelligence.

To oppose a wrong and might the right requires a dauntless Maid of Orleans with a heart as great as it is pure, an intellect as pure as it is great, and whose faith in God, herself and God's humanity is as strong as her simplicity is sweet. "Take all in good part; fret not thyself because of thy martyrdom; thou shalt come at last to the kingdom of Paradise." These words of "invisible allies" to the faithful Joan of Arc through her long imprisonment, cruel and unjust trial, during which she alternates the valiant leader and the feeble woman, after her desertion by those for whom her love and loyalty had prompted her to battle, seem little consolation to spirits less unquenchable and inexperienced with human frailty. A woman whose subdueing voice could sway a nation in oppression and place the royal crown upon a vacillating dauphin born without a kingly soul must have been divinely called.

To know wherein we know and know wherein we can know may not be more scientific than to know wherein we know not, and to know we can not know. When untold observations upon the orb of woman have been made, when reasoning or calculation ceases to exist, when we no longer try to pierce the darkness for her realm and locate with precision her abode, when there has dropped the telescope of selfishness or whim, and the magnifying glasses of "God speed you" are in use then we will see her proper sphere so near us that its gentle rays illuminate our hearts with light, until we wonder that a beam had blinded long our ardent gaze. To confess an ignorance is wise; to assume indifference is base. Can we know not woman's work? God bless you! inquire of any woman of average intelligence as to what her duty is and quickly she will tell you, and add to your fair knowledge the information as to how and where she finds it. It seems we have been waiting that, perchance a good might bring unto our shrouded vision this wandering of stars, so woman now in banishment, may occupy her rightful habitation. When she no longer seeks a mission outside of her God-given faculties, she lifts her weary head and with fingers that have steady grown raises up her heavy work that had fallen at her side while she dreamed of happiness apart from her own soul, and putting it into her lips, with a kiss of conversation, invokes a heavenly benediction upon the labor of her hand. When woman feels that no one else knows more about her noble hight than she herself can know by the true development of powers granted to her from above, then will we believe that she has learned her precious worth, and goes no more in search of hidden worlds, but to an earnest, Christian work that well she comprehends.

We have now arrived at that period of our church's history when sisters have the opportunity of launching out into endeavors with the full assurance of appreciation, knowing that their purposes must not less exalted be than the aspirations of their experienced brethren, nor their motives less impure in their aim at moral usefulness. We have not been seen at our best. The traditions of our church, combined with the necessity to make an honest living, have so dwarfed our opportunities for mental, moral and spiritual development, that the keen observer justly looks upon us from the roughest point of observation. But there is life remaining that only needs a little care to bring it into vigorous existence, so woman's mission may become a sturdy oak which storms and floods can never move from its rooty depths, while its power of calm resistance can not be slighted with impunity, and yet its queenly shadow of motionless tall branches shield the trembling bird from view.

The day, dear sisters, now has come for us to show ourselves capable of carrying on a good and gracious work. Let us prove that we are worthy of true confidence by our ability to conduct a movement that will do us honor and remain an everlasting blessing to our church. If we understand ourselves, there is no danger of misunderstandings. When we touch the holiest chord in the world's affections, we will no longer feel that we sing alone. But should our ideal of perfections be too high to suit some of the more indulgent ones, we may have to suffer from oft being misrepresented; this we cannot help, and with God's assistance, we must bear the pain in dignity of silence, working still for better things. The time is gone in which we were thought to be of no church benefits, except to pay devotions to the preacher and pray in secret for unloving husbands. We have come into a brighter ray and see more clearly for ourselves and families. The feeling something is at fault has caused us to look deeper in and farther out, and having reached the truth, are ready to become firm helpers upon fair and equal space. We are at a disadvantage, but the brave heart overcomes all difficulties. Stronger we will grow by doing greater things of which we've ever dreamed. Let us plough the ground and sow the seed, thankful that we are divinely favored, although another, no more loving, gathers in the golden grain.

It is useless to review our past, because it is a useless past. It is unwise to shape dreams for the future, the future may delude. "Act, act in the living present, heart within and God o'erhead." We may start, dear sisters, through the arch of memory to catch one glimpse of our dead past, but if it should be seen, there is the winding sheet with which it had been wrapped when last 'twas laid to rest, that a cold, more deadly shiver passes through the soul, freezing out of it the hope of giving living warmth, and we backward shrink from the awful presence of a blank reality. The last leaf has fluttered from the tree. No other form will rest more quietly in its gloomy grave than our church experience, and there will not be one among its many worshipers anxious to behold the vault and bring to their dim eyes the moldering, decaying dust. Let us live with nobler aims and pray for higher blessings. The tears that fell upon the coffin, ere it was lowered in the tomb, crystalizing into brighter gems, at the gate of heaven will be dropped upon the crown that Christ has placed upon our bowed uncovered heads, waiting for immortal benediction. When we have crossed our toil worn hands and looked our last upon the work of our true heart's ideal, then we will fully realize the pleasure of a labor all for love. Others less thoughtful than we may review the empty past in search of consolation, but let us, conscience free, bear the heat and burden of the day.

M. M. STERLING.

Sept, 24, 1888.

To Girls.

Be cheerful, but not gigglers; serious, but not dull; be communicative, dut not forward; be kind, but not servile. Beware of silly, thoughtless speeches; although you may forget them, others will not. Remember God's eye is on every company. Beware of levity and familiarty with young men; a modest reserve, without affectation, is the only safe path. Court and encourage conversation, with those who are truly serious and conversable; do not go into valuable company without endeavoring to improve by the intercourse permitted to you. Nothing is more unbecoming, when one part of a company is engaged in profitable conversation, than that another part should be trifling, giggling, and talking comparative nonsense to each other.—LEIGH RICHMOND.

Dr. Parker, of London, invited Mrs. Booth, of the Salvation Army, to occupy his mid-day service in his church on a recent Thursday. The edifice was filled, and this woman, called of God to declare His truth as much as any minister of the New Testament, spoke with great vigor and eloquence upon the methods of saving the lost.

When the hair shows signs of falling, begin at once to use Ayer's Hair Tigor. This preparation strengthens the scalp, promotes the growth of new hair, restores the natural color to gray and faded hair, and renders it soft, pliant, and glossy.

Let us be honest, and own that the vessel does not over flow because it is not very full of faith and love.—F. R. Havergal.

Live to make others happy.

If we do not want to "speak of Him," let us beware of plausibly persuading ourselves that it is because we do not want to speak about ourselves.

A Christian's experience is like a rainbow, made up of drops of the grief of earth and beams of the bliss heaven. — THOMAS.

There is never a "Might have been" that touches with a sting, but reveals also to us an inner glimpse of the wide and beautiful "May be."

In life it is difficult to say who do you the most mischief, enemies with the worst intentions or friends with the best.

A child of God should be a visible beatitude for joy and happiness, and a living doxology for gratitude and adoration.—SPURGEON.

She could walk as well as ever.

I have used Salvation Oil for Rheumatism in the feet and after several applications was entirely relieved of pain and could walk as well as ever.

MRS. ANN R. WATKINS,
30 Cumberland St., Baltimore, Md.